Welcome to Walkerston State School

We’ve caught up with some of our new enrolments at Walkerston, and asked them what they’ve liked about their new school. Here’s what they had to say.

**Jayda Bobongie, Prep B**
*What has been the best thing about starting school?*  “I like learning, reading. Horses are my favourite animals.”

**Jahali Contor, Prep B**
*What do you like doing at school?*  “I like learning, drawing houses and cars. I like eating my lunch.”

**Lily Hansen, Year 2B**
*The kids have been friendly. My teacher (Miss Haas) is really nice. I like PE. Last week we played Oz-Tag and I like music.*

**Dylan Proctor, Year 5A**
*“Coming to a new school has given me a chance to make more friends. I’ve liked doing cross country training, and having a chance to vote for the Year 6 and 7 School and House Captains.”*
Principal’s Report

In the last newsletter, I spoke about the importance of each student trying their best. Now that we are into our third week of Term 1, our teachers and paraprofessionals have been busy getting an idea of where our students’ strengths and weaknesses lie, and determining what each of their students can do to improve.

Quality Teaching at Walkerston State School

I have been spending a lot of my time over the past two weeks conducting classroom visits, and have had the pleasure of watching the staff from Prep right through to Year 7 employ the Explicit Instruction teaching framework to teach key lessons in literacy and numeracy. Explicit Instruction is a specific lesson sequence designed to clearly define the roles of teachers and students in the learning process. Explicit Instruction also provides all students, with all of their varied preferred learning styles, opportunities to switch onto the key knowledge and skills that a teacher intends to teach in any given lesson. I’m pleased to say that the staff at Walkerston have demonstrated a high level of mastery of the framework, and we will be continuing to upskill ourselves in how to use this framework to make sure that our students have the best chance to improve.

The Great Results Guarantee

The notion of improving learning is at the forefront of a new Education Queensland initiative, the Great Results Guarantee. Schools throughout Queensland have been given extra financial resources to allow them to continue to improve student learning. Of course, with the extra money should be greater accountability, so the Great Results Guarantee is also about us saying that when you enrol a child at Walkerston State School, we guarantee that your child will accomplish a certain level of learning. We are currently in the process of reviewing our school data to determine where we can most effectively use our new resources. I will keep you up to speed with how we progress and what specific components will make up our guarantee.

Learning for the Future: Project 600

This week we had a group of students begin a new learning initiative, the Project 600 Reading Comprehension Course. Project 600 is a program that is unique to the Central Queensland district. The program provides our students with another environment in which to learn – in this case students are using computers and microphone-enabled headsets to talk with a teacher elsewhere in the state about how to improve their reading comprehension. The idea behind Project 600 is that our tech-savvy students can learn best with a mix of the traditional face-to-face teacher instruction, and working as a team in an online environment, supporting each other as they take on the challenge of improving their literacy skills. A group of students in Year 5 have been lucky enough to be involved this year. Project 600 has only been running for a short period of time, but for those students involved last year, the measurable improvements were very considerable.
2014 Student Leaders

As you’d be aware, 2014 is a unique year in which we have two year levels graduating, as next year’s Year 7s become the first cohort to start Junior Secondary at our local high schools. Positions as school and house captains were therefore open to both Year 6 and 7 students. At last Friday’s whole school parade, a number of brave Year 6 and 7 students gave speeches explaining why they should become our 2014 student leaders. The standard of public speaking, and the love and respect of the school evident in the content of the speeches, was very pleasing. All candidates did exceptionally well, but only a small number were able to be named successful once the Year 5, 6 and 7 students, and staff, had a vote.

CLASS CHANGES TO YEAR 3

After our Day 8 enrolments have been processed, we have been informed that we have sufficient staffing to allow a minor change. Mrs Tomlin will join with Mrs Nield as the teachers for 3A, with Mrs Tomlin on Monday and Tuesday, and Mrs Nield on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This will allow Mr Hurley to take on a greater role in focused curriculum work in the school. We would like to welcome Mrs Tomlin to our Yr 3

Student of the Week Awards

for Weeks 1 and 2

Libby Zurvas: For always having a smile on her face and for a very positive start to Prep, Prep A
Jahali Contor: For having a great start to the year, Prep B
Brodie Hermann: For being a helpful class member, Prep C
Savannah Ramos: For working well in class, Prep C
Brendan McCowat: For putting in a superb effort, Class 1A
Evynn Proctor: For an excellent start to the year and trying hard in all subjects, Class 1B
Chloe Neill: For showing care and compassion to her class members, Class 3B
Jenaya Hart: For working quietly and responsibly in class, Class 4A
Jordan Vella: For showing confidence and creativity in her writing, Class 4A
Connor Steindl: For having a positive attitude to this school work, Class 45B
Casey Battaia: For working to her full potential, Class 5A
Lauren Combridge: For having an excellent start to the year, Class 5A
Regine Dela Tore: For having an excellent start to the year, Class 67B

Walkerston State School House Captains

From Left to Right:
Fadden House Captains Jordyn Valentine and Angus McGregor,
Ross House Captains Tait Poli and Rhys Symonds, Treacy House
Captains Alexandria Gall and Sam Townsend

Walkerston State School Captains

From Left to Right:
Year 6 School Captains Ashton Scriha and Lucy Baulch, Acting Principal
Mr Horton, Year 7 School Captains Jamison Harder and Sean Baker
**Staying Fit and Active**

It was somewhat of a surprise to have dozens of students running past my office window on Tuesday morning before 8:30am. It was only then that it dawned on me that Cross Country Training was starting for the year. Walkerston State School has a great tradition of producing champion athletes. But again, just as with academic work, exercise and training are not just about celebrating the most successful students. Of the most importance, it is about each of us realising that we all need to keep undertaking physical activity to the best level that we can. The benefits as we get older, just as with trying one’s best with school work, are obvious in terms of improved chances of having happy lives and healthy habits as adults. What struck me on Tuesday morning was the fantastic turn-out of students in all year levels, in typically humid conditions. Mrs Jan Potts, our HPE teacher, will be hosting the training sessions every Tuesday and Thursday morning, 8:00 am to 8:30 am. She’s very keen for more students to turn up and be involved.

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**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

**THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY**

COST $4.00 PER STUDENT—**Envelopes in this newsletter**

PAYMENT DUE TO CLASS TEACHERS BY 21 FEBRUARY

**Let’s Chat Habitat**

Let’s Chat Habitat is a colourful collection of short segments with the common theme of taking care of the environment. It tackles both the micro and macro from litter in the playground, turning off taps, lights and appliances to the protection of endangered species. Students are shown how everyone doing a little can make a big difference.

The variety style format allows this show the flexibility to swap between performance genres, giving the performance a lively energy and pace. Rap and opera singing green peas and peas doing impersonations, audience participation, morphing shadow puppet fish reciting poetry, whales, sharks and dinosaurs are just a few of the colourful characters used to explore the many ideas raised in the show.

The show opens back in prehistoric times as Dina Dinosaur lays an egg which hatches almost immediately. The scene that ensues between mother and baby is hilarious but at the same time shows that size and strength are no guarantee of survival when dealing with nature.

All manner of objects including a giant inflatable earth, a dark cloud which in the blink of an eye transforms into a rainbow and signs to aid memory, are all used to help convey the concepts and ideas dealt within Let’s Chat Habitat.

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**PIANO LESSONS**

2 Locations
West Mackay and North Eton
Commencing from the 10th February, 2014
$25 per half hour lesson
Please contact Hannah Ritchie for more information and to make a booking
Phone 0488584922
Email: hannah.ritchie@outlook.com

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**COUNTRY UNITED SOCCER CLUB**

**2014 SEASON**

REGISTER NOW
www.myfootballclub.com.au

Players still needed for all age divisions
U5’s to Senior Men and Women
For further details please contact:
Juniors: Tanya Farnham - cuscsreg@gmail.com or Ph: 0448 262 891
Seniors: Kaitlyn Walz - cuscsreg@gmail.com or Ph: 0448 720 654

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**WEST’S “TIGERS” JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE - 2014 SIGN-ON**

STILL TAKING REGISTRATIONS IN ALL AGE GROUPS
NEW PLAYERS WELCOME
PLEASE CONTACT registrar.wdjrlfc@hotmail.com

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**Palmyra Bus Run—AGM**

If you would like to attend the AGM later this month, please contact Barb Blackhall on 0407 968 606 or email barb_blackhall@activ8.net.au for more details.